

**FRONT YARD SET BACK TREE REMOVAL
REQUEST**

December 2017

Date: 11/8/17

Requested by: Jonathan and Alexis Wilson

Address: jonny@dhd.com; alexis@dhd.com

Location of Tree: 310 Alston Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Tree Species: (4) *Araucaria araucana*, *Common Name:* Monkey Puzzle Tree

Zoning/Setback: RS-25 30' Setback

Reason for Removal: Dangerous dying trees. See attached letter and photos.

Proposed Replacement: Yes ☒ w/ hedge and drought tolerant plants. No ☐

Advisory Committee Recommendation: Conditionally Approve Removal: ☒ *Deny Removal:* ☐

Staff Recommendation: Conditionally Approve Removal: ☒ *Deny Removal:* ☐

Date Posted: 12/5/17

Comments: The Committee (4/1) recommends that the Commission approve removal of all (4) trees on the condition they replace with 2-3 trees with potential to achieve minimum 30' in height at maturity.

PHOTO INVENTORY



Front Yard 310 Alston Rd. 12-13-17 Attachment 2



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department
SETBACK TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

NOV 07 2017

PARK & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
(805) 564-5433 FAX (805) 897-2524

Physical Address:
402 E. Ortega St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Application Fee: \$50 (effective July 1, 2010)

PAID

DATE OF REQUEST:	November 6th 2017
APPLICANT:	Jonathan & Alexis Wilson
OWNER NAME (IF DIFFERENT THAN APPLICANT):	"
MAILING/EMAIL ADDRESS:	310 Alston Rd. Santa Barbara, CA 93108 jenny@dhd.com alexis@dhd.com
DAYTIME PHONE:	(805) 895-4805 or 4802
LOCATION OF TREE (ADDRESS):	310 Alston Rd. Santa Barbara CA 93108
TREE SPECIES (IF KNOWN):	Monkey Pines
REASON(S) FOR REMOVAL:	Dangerous dying trees - see attached letter & photos
TREE(S) WILL BE REPLACED:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> With: Hedge (Privet) No <input type="checkbox"/> E. drought tolerant plants

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- Property owner letter, indicating reasons for removal. Also include whether:
 - The removal application is associated with new development or redevelopment of property
 - Status of development application, including whether the project is scheduled for review by the Single Family Design Board, Architectural Board of Review or Historic Landmarks Commission
 - The tree is a designated Specimen or Historic Tree or located on a property with a designated Historic Landmark
- Photo of tree(s) proposed for removal
- Development plan/Landscape plan

The Wilson Family
310 Alston Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

The City of Santa Barbara
PO Box 1990, Santa Barbara CA 93102

To Whom It May Concern;

The Wilson Family is requesting the removal of 4 "Monkey Puzzle" Trees in the setback zone for Alston Road in Santa Barbara. Below are the quick answers to the questions raised in the *SETBACK TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION* followed by more personal information.

- The removal application is not associated with a new development or redevelopment of the property.
- The project does not need review by the design or architectural board or the Historic Landmark Commission.
- The trees are also not a designated Specimen, Historic Tree or on a property with a designated Historic Landmark.

Considerations for Removal 15.24.080

- A. The tree is not a designated historic or specimen tree.
- B. The trees are 60 feet tall in relation to our 1 story house.
- C. Our property has lots of greenery and an abundant supply of greenery. Removal of the Monkey pine would actually increase the green landscape in time.
- D. There are 4 trees that we would be removing.
- E. The beneficial aspects are numerous. We would be able to have a healthy, lush, lower waterscape on what has been described as a complete eyesore property as explain by neighbors as the house has been vacant for 6+ years.

Findings for Removal 12.24.090

- A. Cicileo Landscape will ensure all good practicing principles are taken once the trees are removed.
- B. We will develop the land once the trees are removed as a lower water lust landscape as done with previous home.
- C. The character would fall in line with the rest of the neighborhood if the trees are removed. Currently our house sticks out in a bad way as the "run down" home and front yard on Alston.
- D. Yes, the topography of the building site would be improved with removal.
- E. Safety is the NUMBER 1 reason we wish to remove the trees. The watermelon size pinecones that have dented and damaged my truck could easily kill my daughter if they landed on her. The pine needles are razor sharp and we have been hurt by them numerous times.

Reasons for Removing Monkey Puzzle;

1. The pine needles that fall (20-30) on a daily basis are literally as sharp as razor blades. We've been cut by them several times as well as our daughter.
2. The house has been sitting for 6 years unoccupied and someone (not the previous owner) cut some of the braches to help their view but it dramatically made the trees an eyesore. Please see photos.
3. The cones that fall are the size of watermelons and pinapples and have dented my car and could seriously/critically injure a child or adult. Please see photos.
4. The sap, during a time of the year, is so bad that it covers our cars and we cannot even roll down our windows due to the stickiness of the substance. Not even windshield wiper fluid/blades removes the sap, so we get a car wash 2-3 times per week during that season.
5. The bugs – although these bugs are also seasonal it seems they live in the tree and pine needles. When the needles / braches fall, the bugs start to come into our house and cover the driveway, retaining wall and walkways. Please see photos.
6. The tree on the eastern side of the house is breaking through our retaining wall. We have been warned by Mike Cicileo (Owner of Cicileo Landscaping) that if nothing is done it will break through. Mike will be the person removing the trees and has given me permission to use his name and for you to call him if needed. Please see photos.
7. The trees are not in good health and it looks as though someone tried to kill them. Please see photos of the spike driven into a couple of the trees and the comparison of our trees to healthy trees. We believe that this is the reason for the constant downpour of branches, razor needles and sap. Please see photos.
8. PG&E has come by in order to cut braches back from the power lines due to risk of damage to the lines / fire hazard. We are working with Patrick at PG&E (Phone number 310-386-2903) and he is working on getting us an official letter stating that they trees are interfering with their efforts in keeping the power lines safely functioning.

We will develop the above land with low water plants and a small hedge. Our goal in to have an ecofriendly, green and beautiful front yard with native plants and a hedge to decrease noise from Alston Road.

I hope that you will allow us to continue to beautify 310 Alston Road as we did with our previous property located at 118 North Salinas.

Mike from Cicileo landscaping has offered to speak on our behalf. If needed you can reach him via phone at: (805) 967-3939 or via email at jmichael@cicileo.com.

Alexis and I can be reached at 805-895-4805 (Jonathan) and 805-895-4802 (Alexis) or via email at jonny@dhd.com and alexis@dhd.com.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Warm Regards

Jonathan and Alexis Wilson
310 Alston Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

